SOME

ACCOUNT

OF THE

EXPEIENCE

OF

E. J.

LONDON:

Printed by G. PARAMORE, *North-Green, Worſhip-Street*

And ſold by G. WHITFIELD, at the Chapel, City-Road, and at all the Methodiſt Preaching-Houſes in Town and Country. 1792.

SOME

Short ACCOUNT of

E. J.

1. FOR many years I had a desire to love God, and thought I could submit to be of any sect or denomination, if this would bring me nearer to him: only rejecting the name of a *Methodist*. For I thought them to be a deluded people, and the off scouring of the earth. I was in this temper when I heard a Minister preach on, *All mine are thine, and thine are mine.* It came to my heart, and I found such a measure of happiness, as I never had done before. But having none to strengthen my hands or build me up, it gradually died away.

2. After this, a Clergyman having been at prayers, a gentlewoman asked me, how I liked him? I said, "Very well: he has had a liberal education, and speaks in a graceful manner." She said, "But man cannot reach the heart. Did you ever hear the small still voice, whispering peace

to your ſoul?" I felt ſomething of prejudice riſe at the queſtion, and replied, "I have lived a good life. I have done no harm, and I do not omit my duty. I go to church every day." She ſaid, "I am ſorry you have got no further." I was ſurprized at her impertinence, and roſe up to go away. She intreated me to ſtay a little, ſaying, "I have but another word to ſpeak. If you are not delivered by a higher power than you have known yet, you will never be ſaved." The word *higher power* ſtruck me to the heart, and brought a ray of light which ſhewed me, that notwithſtanding all my works, I was *without God in the world*. I found a load of guilt which ſtruck me with terror. I ſaw my heart was as a cage of unclean birds. I believed, now I ſhall be a caſtaway, and knew not where to hide me. I could not ſpeak, but withdrew and retired to my cloſet, and wreſtled with God in mighty prayer. I reſolved not to let him go till he had bleſſed me: crying, "I renounce all I am and all I have; if thou haſt any bleſſing for me, bleſs me now!" Thus I continued an hour, when thoſe words came with power, *Abide in me and I in thee*. I cried out with much aſſurance, "My Lord and my God!" "What is this that thou haſt done for me?" In the twinkling of an eye my ſoul was quickened. The ſeed of God was ſown in my heart. My ſins were blotted out, and I was raiſed from the dead, by the word of reconciliation. I felt virtue proceed from Chriſt, which took away my ſins. I now partook of angel's food, and knew that I was born of God.

3 For three weeks I remained exceeding happy. My lamp was lighted, and I had oil in my veſſel. The Scriptures were opened to me, and were ſpirit and life: in the Lord's ſupper I found the peace that paſſeth all underſtanding. None can expreſs the

the excellency of the virtue which flows from the merits of Chriſt. I was grafted into the vine, and thereby enabled to *draw water out of the wells of ſalvation*. Yet I found, there was much in me contrary to the will of God. I had not all the mind that was in Chriſt. Nay, there remained much of the carnal mind. There was enmity, and ſtrife, and vain-glory, which ſoon embittered my ſweets. My heart was bent to backſliding, and continually ready to comply with the ſuggeſtions of Satan. I gave way to evil reaſoning, which cauſed peevishneſs and impatience; and theſe ate the life of God out of my ſoul. I could not *endure hardneſs*; in every form I was ready to give up my confidence. I could not love God with an undivided heart. It was my deſire, to praiſe him without ceaſing: but I could not perform, for ſome hindrance was ſtill coming in the way. The Lord often refreſhed me by the way: but this did not ſatisfy. What I wanted was, to have my heart entirely devoted to him. But I found there remained in me a root of bitterneſs, a ſtubborn will, a diabolical nature, capable of committing all manner of wickedneſs were it not for reſtraining grace. Yet I had no light into the ſcriptures, ſo as to divide the word, and make a diſtinction between the juſtifying and the ſanctifying promiſes. So I was content to be a babe, if my inward corruption would have let me be at peace. Yea, I had in my heart an utter averſion to the doctrine of entire ſanctification, and found all the enmity in me roſe againſt thoſe who ſpoke of experiencing it. One day hearing a preacher ſay, we could not live many hours after we were ſanctified, my heart readily joined with him. But preſently I was ſtruck with thoſe words, *Without holineſs no man ſhall ſee the Lord.* I fain would have ſtifled this conviction. At leaſt, I cared not

to think of it yet. I thought, Why it is but thirteen months ſince I was juſtified. And need I think of being ſanctified already? However, if ever I ſhould be, none ſhall ever know it. But the light increaſed more and more, and my deſires at the ſame time, till I hungered and thirſted vehemently for ſomething, but I knew not what. One day I was conſtrained to come unto the Lord, and was ſeized with an awful ſenſe of his Majeſty. I trembled, and for ſome moments was as in a ſilent darkneſs. I was ready to cry, Whether am I going? For it ſeemed, as if he was going to ſtrike the blow, and ſend me to everlaſting deſtruction. But I found a ſpark of light, and cried, "Where is my Jeſus? He can *ſave to the uttermoſt.*" Preſently I cried, "Lord come quickly!" Yet I had a dread of his coming; for it appeared, as if ſomething ſtrange was going to happen to me. But I ſaid, "Lord thou prayeſt for me: O pray for me, that I may *now* get the victory! Help *now* my unbelief! Renew me wholly in thy image and likeneſs! Give me faith, and faith's increaſe, that I may be wholly ſaved from ſin." I then found freſh ſtrength, and cried vehemently, "If thou haſt any bleſſing for me, bleſs me now! Unworthy as I am, yet I claim, in Chriſt, my full redemption. I mean to take no denial. Give me all thou haſt purchaſed. Looſe me from myſelf, that I may lie paſſive in thy hand. Lord, if thou wilt thou canſt make me clean!" But I found there was a dark cloud, which ſtill remained between God and my ſoul. Then I cried "Lord, let me touch the Sceptre of thy righteouſneſs. I reſign my life and my all. Make me now whole, and take me to thyſelf." While I thus pleaded, I was in an agony between hope and deſpair, till thoſe words came as a mighty rufhing wind, *A clean heart I give unto thee.* I received

received the word with gladneſs and in much aſſurance. Soon after came, *Be not faithleſs, but believing.* At theſe happy words every cloud was diſpelled, and I ſaw the light which ſhineth to the perfect day. I found acceſs to the holy of holies, where I now ſee the Trinity in Unity. The Lord *ſhineth* unto me *in perfect beauty*: I enjoy an inſeparable union with him without intermiſſion. The little leaven has leavened the whole lump. All my ſenſes are now fully employed in ſpiritual exercife. The love of God, flaming in my heart as an unquenchable fire, has burnt up all the droſs, and deſtroyed every plant which was not of his own planting. I find that oneneſs with him, being made *one ſpirit with the Lord*, which enables me to walk with him like *Enoch*, ſo that I converſe with him by his Spirit as familiarly *as a man doth with his friend.* I find now no want, no inward conflict, but my ſoul dwells in a peaceable habitation. I am enabled to walk as in the noon-day ſun: my heart is fixed, and my ſoul is watered every moment. Yet the fear of the Lord is ever before me, leſt I ſhould grieve the holy Spirit. I watch and guard the ſacred treaſure in my heart, not daring to give way to a word or thought, without finding the approbation of the Lord, by the powerful operation of his Spirit. Hereby I know and *prove, what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.* He manifeſts his ſtrength in my weakneſs. I am but a worm, yet he delights to bleſs me, and has made me perfect in his love, ſo that nothing interrupts my joy. He enables me, not to loſe a moment of time, and to live but a moment at once. My *hope is full of immortality*: and I find no want of ſpiritual food, no more than if I was in heaven already. Nothing in me oppoſes the will of God: In nothing can I either will or chuſe. For He hath given me

to

to *walk before him in all well pleasing*, and to *sit in heavenly places with Christ Jesus*. My loins are girt, my lamp burning, and my soul flourishing as the palm-tree.

4. For these ten years I have enjoyed this haven of rest. It has been to me as a day without a cloud. I never have had a tedious moment, nor a murmuring thought. I have been tempted in all things: yet nothing obscures my light, or obstructs my way; but still I *rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, and in every thing give thanks*. My heart is prepared, whenever my Lord knocks, to open to him immediately. For grace has overcome death; the thoughts of death are my glory and joy. I know, that I am every moment ready to be offered, being made in Christ unrebukeable, without spot, a spiritual sacrifice, wholly devoted to God.

5. God now permitted the grace he had given to be tried. I was not born to dwell on one spot of ground, but was banished from all that was near and dear to me, and driven from city to city. I now proved the happy effects of faith. When I was bufleted by Satan, his darts took no place in me: I defied him and all his works. When I am roughly treated by the world, *I stand still, and see the salvation of God*. And the more I am tempted, so much the more the pure flame revives: and love of God ever flaming in the heart, keeps out every occasion of stumbling. This enables me to *rejoice in tribulation*, and glory in the cross: for I find, by his grace, my soul is *even as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved*. I am freed from all anxious thoughts and painful fears. *I take no thought for the morrow*. I live to day, and have nothing to do but to die. I know my soul is prepared to meet my God. In nothing hitherto have I been ashamed, with all boldness giving thanks

thanks unto the Lord. And now I aſcribe all glory to him, who hath made me a partaker of that holineſs, without which no man ſhall ſee the Lord.

6. Think it not ſtrange, that he ſhould give this ſuddenly. When he comes to juſtify, he comes quickly. And when he comes to ſanctify, he comes quickly: This alſo is an inſtantaneous work. And no man can love God with his whole heart, and grow up into Chriſt in all things, ſo as to enjoy all the mind that was in Chriſt, till he is *ſanctified throughout, body, ſoul and ſpirit.*

7. As we were juſtified, ſo are we ſanctified by one ſingle act of faith. Then is the ſoul made like a flame of fire, and the heart is in one continual frame of praiſing God. Then the fulneſs of Chriſt and all his righteouſneſs is brought into the ſoul: even as much of the glory of God as this earthly tabernacle can bear. Then is our inbred ſin deſtroyed. This is the cauſe of all our tranſgreſſions, and while any of this remains, it is the believer's hell, and makes him cry out, *Who ſhall deliver me from the body of this death?* Chriſt will deliver you: He has purchaſed for you a full redemption. He has regained paradiſe, and reſtores the ſoul to that acquaintance with God which *Adam* loſt. By faith, I ever ſee him that is inviſible, and converſe with him, as it were, face to face. I ſtand naked before the Lord, and am not aſhamed, but rejoice in being ſenſible that he knows the ſecret thoughts of my heart. I rejoice that he has taught me to put *on the whole armour of God*, and has made it as eaſy to me, to do and ſuffer the will of God, as it is for *the ſparks to fly upward.*

8. Pull off then this veil of unbelief, and trample ſin and Satan under your feet. Be *you*, alſo a faithful witneſs of Chriſt, that he is *able to ſave*

to

to the uttermoſt, that he hath power even on earth, to ſave from all ſin, *from all filthineſs both of fleſh, and ſpirit.* My experience will profit another nothing, unleſs applied to the heart by the Spirit of God. And is not this the one thing needful for *you*, to be *filled with faith and with the Holy Ghoſt?* May the Lord haſten the time, when this faith ſhall cover the earth, *as the waters cover the ſea!* Then ſhall they not need to teach this to one another: For *all ſhall know him, from the leaſt even to the greateſt.*

9. O that ſinners would give up their own wiſdom, and become fools, that they may be made wiſe! Cannot the Lord do a great work in a little time? In the hour that he convinced *me* of the neceſſity of it, before that hour was expired, I was juſtified. Thirteen months after (as I before obſerved,) I was convinced of the neceſſity of full ſanctification. That night, before I ſlept, God gave me the bleſſing. And is he a *Reſpecter of Perſons?* Who then would not cry unto him? Who would not ſpend a few hours in fervent prayer? O let your hearts yield. Draw near unto the Lord, and he will draw near unto *you*. He will draw you after him by the cords of his love, and you will begin to *ſmell the ſweet odour of his ointments.* Then open your hearts to my beloved; for *his voice is ſweet, and his countenance comely. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleaſant fruit.* He ſays *Ariſe, my love, and come away!* I will chide thee no more for thy paſt follies. Only now *give me thy heart.* Thou ſhalt then find, *the winter is paſt, the ſinging of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in the land.* Then will you get new eyes, new hearts, new delights, and every thing will have a ſatisfying reliſh. Then will you chide yourſelves, for having been ſo long in purſuit of the things that periſh in the

uſing

uſing! Then will he give you the pearl that *Adam* loſt, that heart-felt union with God, whereby you ſhall ſteadily enjoy his immediate preſence; and his preſence makes our paradiſe. You ſhall walk in the light as he is in the light, having his bright beams ever ſhining upon you. So that

Not a cloud ſhall ariſe,
To darken the ſkies,
Or hide for a moment the Lord from my eyes.

FINIS.